

July 8, 2021

Dear Leelanau County Commissioners:

(Mr. Robins, Ms. Rushton, Mr. Bunek, Mr. Wessel, Ms. Soutas-Little, Ms. Allgaier, Ms. Lautner)

I am writing to you as a concerned property owner on Lake Leelanau in Centerville Township. This letter is in response to the proposed development of a Lake Leelanau Lake Board.

I have been a property owner for 8 years in the township and had spent 10 years prior vacationing in Leelanau County. As a property owner, I am particularly interested in the health of the lake, local economy and the community for many reasons. This county is a place for locals, farmers, business owners and tourists. We are all responsible for preserving this community, economy and natural resource. Everyone, including tourists and non-lake owners, enjoy our beautiful lake and benefit from the recreational and economic benefits provided by the health of the lake.

I am concerned that the preservation of the lake will be put exclusively on backs of lake front property owners through special assessment and taxation that will result from a Lake Leelanau Lake Board. Additionally, I am concerned that the lake owners will be inadequately represented on the Lake Board and subject to excessive, unlimited and unfair taxation. This taxation has the potential to threaten property and generational property ownership.

Specifically, I have concerns with the [Draft Resolution of the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners](#) to establish a Lake Board as follows:

1. *"... to establish a special assessment district to include all parcels of land and local units which will be benefited by the improvement of Lake Leelanau."*

*Counterpoints:*

- All county residents, business owners, visitors benefit from the health of Lake Leelanau. The benefits of a healthy lake are not realized *exclusively* by the lake front owners.
- Lake health contributes directly and positively to economic growth, taxation and tourism. These financial impacts also benefit businesses, economy and government.
- This special assessment district will disproportionately hold lake owners and potentially businesses as the sole accountable financiers of lake health preservation.

2. *" One member elected by the members of the Lake Leelanau Preservation Board at the first meeting of the Board or at anytime a vacancy exists in this position. Only a person who has an interest in a parcel of land that abuts or has legal access to Lake Leelanau is eligible to be elected and may serve in this position.*

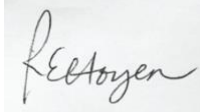
*Counterpoints:*

- A single representative, despite 6% of Leelanau County is lakefront property owners, is insufficient.
- Establishing a district, that may be disproportionately taxed, with a single representative is unequal and unfair representation of this population.
- This member should be voted on by those whose seat this individual represents (i.e. lakefront property owners).
- A vote on this member should occur prior to the full appointment of all board members and prior to the first board meeting.

The Lake Leelanau Preservation Board should have a sole purpose to protect the health of Lake Leelanau and resultant economic and recreational impacts to Leelanau County. The current proposal: 1) lacks equal and fair representation on the Board from those most impacted; 2) disproportionately allocates the costs for the preservations to lakefront property owners; 3) fails to fully recognize all of the economic beneficiaries of a healthy lake and allocate preservation costs accordingly.

I respectfully ask that the above considerations and primary goals of the Preservation Board are discussed at your board meeting. As citizens, property owners, tourists, business owners and farmers, we *all* have a role to play and *pay* in preserving our precious natural, recreational and economic resource ~ Lake Leelanau.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "RHONDA HOYER", written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Rhonda Hoyer  
7239 S. Beachfront Street  
Cedar, MI 49621  
Centerville Township  
(c) 608-334-9073